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10/810,139

03/26/2004

Larry Steven Foster

2002-0856.02

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12/19/2005

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EXAMINER

VARGAS, DLXOMARA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                      |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/810,139 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>FOSTER ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Dixomara Vargas   | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2859              |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 and 03 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-27 and 29-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanizaki et al. (US 6,785,492 B2).

With respect to claim 1, Tanizaki discloses an image forming apparatus (Figure 1-2), comprising: a plurality of rollers, disposed with generally parallel axes (PC drums #8a-#8d and transfer rolls #18a-18d); a retraction plate movable in a substantially axial direction relative to said rollers between engaged and retracted positions (#17); and a plurality of rotational couplings moved by said retraction plate, each said rotational coupling operative to transmit a rotary force to one of said rollers when said retraction plate is in said engaged position, whereby said couplings move laterally in an axial direction of said rollers as said retraction plate moves between said engaged and retracted positions (Columns 10 and 12, lines 41-63 and 1-37 respectively).

3. With respect to claims 2 and 25, Tanizaki discloses said rollers comprise at least one photoconductive member (#8a-#8d).

4. With respect to claims 3 and 24, Tanizaki discloses said rollers comprise at least one developer member (#6a-#6d).

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5. With respect to claims 4 and 15, Tanizaki discloses said rollers comprise at least one removable cartridge including both a developer member and a photoconductive member (cartridge having PC drums #8 and developers #6).
6. With respect to claim 5, Tanizaki discloses said rollers comprise at least one pair of removable cartridges (Figure 2 showing the cartridge being removed), one said cartridge including a developer member (#6b) and the other said cartridge including a photoconductive member (#8a).
7. With respect to claims 7, 8, 13, 14, 26, 27 and 29, Tanizaki discloses said retraction plate moves between said engaged and retracted positions in response to an applied force wherein said applied force is generated by a user opening a portion of said image forming apparatus (Column 10, lines 41-63; Figure 2).
8. With respect to claims 9, 10, 31, 32, 35 and 36, Tanizaki discloses said retraction plate pivots about a pivoting axis to move between said engaged and retracted positions wherein said pivoting axis is disposed along one edge of said retraction plate (Figure 2).
9. With respect to claim 11, Tanizaki discloses said retraction plate moves laterally between said engaged and retracted positions, in the axial direction of said rollers (Figure 2).
10. With respect to claims 12, 16 and 30, see rejection of claims 1 and 9-11 above.
11. With respect to claim 17, Tanizaki discloses said retraction plate is disposed in a generally vertical orientation (Figure 2).
12. With respect to claim 18, Tanizaki discloses said articulating member (Figures 3A-3B) includes at least one pin (#29).

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13. With respect to claim 19, Tanizaki discloses a fixed bracket, and wherein said articulating member is constrained to motion in said first lateral direction by engaging said at least one pin in a slot in said fixed bracket, said slot oriented along said first lateral direction (Figures 3A-3B).

14. With respect to claims 20, 21 and 33, Tanizaki discloses said retraction plate is translated in said second lateral direction by engaging said at least one pin with a cam surface attached to said retraction plate, said cam surface orientated at a non-zero, acute angle with respect to said first lateral direction generally less than 45-degree angle with respect to said first lateral direction (Figures 1-3b).

15. With respect to claim 22, Tanizaki discloses a retraction plate bracket affixed to said retraction plate, and wherein said cam surface is an inner surface of a slot formed in said retraction plate bracket (Figures 1-3b).

16. With respect to claim 34, see rejection of claims 1-5 above.

17. With respect to claims 37-40, see rejection of claims 18-22 above.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

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evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

20. Claims 6 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanizaki et al. (US 6,785,492 B2) in view of Merrifield et al. (US 6,246,841 B1).

With respect to claims 6 and 23, Tanizaki discloses the claimed invention as stated above in paragraph 4 except for the rotational couplings being Oldham couplers. However, Merrifield discloses the Oldham couplers (Column 6, lines 43-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Merrifield's Oldham couplers with Tanizaki's image forming apparatus for the purpose of rotatably driving the developer roll as shown by Merrifield (Column 6, lines 43-46).

21. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanizaki et al. (US 6,785,492 B2) in view of Morita et al. (US 5,262,824).

With respect to claim 28, Tanizaki discloses the claimed invention as stated above in paragraph 4 except for having said rotary force converted to a lateral force by a rack and pinion gear system. However, Morita discloses rack and pinion gear system (Figure 3, #51 and P). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Morita's rack and pinion gear system with Tanizaki's image forming apparatus

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for the purpose of changing the position of the cartridge to replace it or remove it as shown by Morita (Column 18, lines 33-68).

***Response to Arguments***

22. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional prior art cited discloses imaging systems with means for opening the cover.

24. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dixomara Vargas  
Art Unit 2859  
December 13, 2005



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